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The Daily Gamecock, TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2008

University of South Carolina, Office of Student Media

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The Mix
'Fringe' falls short of standards set by 'Lost.' See page 6

Sports
Meet the baddest dudes you've never heard of. See page 9



The Daily Gamecock

dailygamecock.com

THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2008

VOL. 102, NO. 22 • SINCE 1908

Fraternity hosts debate

McCain, Obama representatives talk to students about positions, candidates' party platforms

Halley Nani
THE DAILY GAMECOCK

Consultants for the Obama and McCain presidential campaigns took part in the 2008 Elections Voting Forum hosted by Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Inc.

The forum was designed to attract students who were undecided in terms of their pick for president, said Gerald Harvey, a fourth-year exercise science student and Kappa Alpha Psi member.

"If there is uncertainty about which candidate people will vote for, hopefully their questions are answered tonight and they will decide who they will vote for," Harvey said. Although the forum was supposed to entail several key topics, Adam Piper, a 2006 graduate of USC and political consultant for John McCain, and Travis Robertson, an Obama supporter, debated their candidates' stances on education for more than an hour.

Piper said McCain stresses that parents must



Chad Simmons / THE DAILY GAMECOCK

Students hear both sides of the presidential debate to make voting decisions.

demand better choices for their children in terms of education. While he would not explain the specifics of McCain's education policy at the forum, he said students should visit McCain's Web site, www.johnmccain.com, and compare his education platform to Obama's.

"You'll see positive aims at education that pledge that our generation will not be worse off than our parents," Piper said. In contrast, Robertson, armed with paperwork, outlined Obama's six-point plan on education. It included specifics on a simpler application approach to financial aid, a more basic formula for calculating financial aid, creating opportunities for tax credits, giving most students \$4,000 for their college education and providing \$25 million in matching funds for states to form education grants.

On the subject of teachers, Piper said America's schools should not only be competitive for students, but for teachers as well.

"How many of you have played Sudoku or done crossword puzzles during lecture?" Piper said. He blamed boredom habits on inefficient teachers. Robertson

countered when he said the success of students comes not from the teachers, but from each student's desire to learn. He also said Piper neglected to expand on McCain's specific plans for education.

Both representatives used South Carolina's "Corridor of Shame," a group of impoverished high schools, to illustrate the poor rating of some public schools. Robertson said Obama plans to raise the minimum wage to between \$40,000 and \$45,00 a year, eliminate the No Child Left Behind Act and look at poor schools as an educational issue, as well as an economical one.

Piper said McCain plans to take measures like reducing bureaucracy, empowering teachers and giving students more choices of places to attend school in order "to give students a real doorway to the future and to prosperity."

Also at the forum was Anton Gunn, a former Gamecock football player who is running for representative for South Carolina District 79 and is the head of Obama's campaign in Columbia.

Gunn talked mainly about

VOTE • 4

Ticket system draws crowds

TicketReturn sets record; some students remain unsatisfied

Josh Dawsey
STAFF WRITER

USC students set a record last Thursday night, filling up the student section of Williams-Brice to a point it never has.

Alex Stroman, the Student Government Athletics Committee chairman, said much of the success is due to the new ticket system, TicketReturn.com.

"In the past, the most students that have attended a game in the student section was 7,000," Stroman said. "For the N.C. State game, we had 8,624. We set a record."

But with the much-anticipated game against Georgia this weekend, many USC students are still upset with a lack of available tickets in the student section.

Stroman said the university will discuss issues with student ticketing at a meeting today at a 4 p.m. Student Ticket Advisory Committee meeting in the SEC room.

The loyalty-based ticket system, designed to reward seniority and staunch support of Gamecock athletics, gives eight points to seniors, six points to juniors, four points to sophomores and two points to freshmen. Students also receive 10 percent of all the points they accumulated in the previous year.

In other words, a freshman who attended the game against N.C. State on Aug. 28 has the same odds of getting a ticket as a sophomore who didn't attend the game.

But the system has no guarantees.

"Theoretically, a senior that attended all the games last year may not get a ticket while a freshman could," Stroman said. "It's possible, but it's not probable."

USC Students Against

Ticket Return, a Facebook group created by second-year student Andrew Zank, has almost 1,200 members.

Posts on the wall have ranged from explanatory to irate.

Melissa Pearce, a third-year electrical engineering student, applied for a ticket to the N.C. State game but didn't get one.

"I've been to about 90 percent of the home games since I've been here, and I was even in the marching band my freshman year," Pearce said. "It made me really upset, and I called the hotline to find out what was happening. They told me to just try again, but I never got one."

The system looks to be implemented for baseball games as well, Stroman said.

"We're working out all the details and making it better," Stroman said. "It's new, so there will be problems, but we think it'll be the best for the students in the end."

Pearce said she is worried about her chances for the Georgia game.

"I've applied for a ticket, but since I didn't get to go to the N.C. State game, my chances aren't as good now," Pearce said.

Another priority for the university in the near future is adding seats to the student section.

The price for student football tickets is included in USC tuition, while schools such as LSU, Florida and Tennessee charge students to be entered into the lottery.

In recent months, an analysis by the University of Alabama's student newspaper about their ticketing system upset students when it showed that only 16 percent of tickets in the stadium are allotted to students.

USC's figures are even lower, with less than 11 percent available for students.

Comments on this story? E-mail gamecocknews@sc.edu

Ticket Return Request Schedule

WOFFORD - SATURDAY, SEPT. 20 - 8 P.M.	SEPT. 14 - 15 12:01 A.M. - 11:59 P.M.
UAB - SATURDAY, SEPT. 27 - 8 P.M.	SEPT. 21 - 22 12:01 A.M. - 11:59 P.M.
LSU - SATURDAY, OCT. 18 - 8 P.M.	OCT. 12 - 14 12:01 A.M. - 11:59 P.M.
TENNESSEE - SATURDAY, NOV. 1 - 8 P.M.	OCT. 26 - 27 12:01 A.M. - 11:59 P.M.

Alan Tauber / THE DAILY GAMECOCK

Driving age discussed across nation



According to the National Highway Safety Administration

- More than 5,000 U.S. teens die each year in car crashes.
- The rate of crashes, fatal and nonfatal, per mile driven for 16-year-old drivers is almost 10 times the rate for drivers ages 30 to 59.

Karen Sternheimer, a University of Southern California sociologist who studies accident statistics, cited federal data from 2007 showing:

- Drivers ages 25 to 34, as well as those ages 45 to 64, were nearly twice as likely to be involved in alcohol-related fatalities as 16- to 20-year-old drivers.

Car accidents leading cause of death for U.S. teenagers

Martha Irvine
AP National Writer

CHICAGO — Taking aim at a longstanding rite of passage for 16-year-olds, an influential auto safety group is calling on states to raise the age for getting a driver's license to 17 or even 18.

Adrian Lund, president of the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety, a research group funded by the auto insurance industry, acknowledged the idea is "a tough sell" but noted that car crashes are the leading cause of death among teenagers.

"The bottom line is that when we look at the research, raising the driving age saves lives," Lund said. He plans to present the proposal Tuesday at the annual conference of the Governors Highway Safety Association in Scottsdale, Ariz.

Not surprisingly, a lot of teens hate the idea.

"I would really be upset because I've waited so long to drive," said Diamante White, a 16-year-old in

Reading, Pa., who got her permit in July. She said learning to drive is a "growing-up experience."

Many parents agree. They also like not having to chauffeur their teens to school, sporting events and any number of other places.

"Do we really want our kids dependent upon parents for virtually everything until they go to college, can vote and serve their country?" asked Margaret Menotti, a mother in Uxbridge, Mass.

She argued that keeping teens from driving would only make them less responsible.

Some parents also find it ironic that this conversation is happening just as a group of college presidents have proposed lowering the drinking age to 18.

Among other things, institute researchers have compiled decades worth of data from New Jersey, the only state that issues licenses at 17.

Various studies have shown that the overall rate of teens killed in crashes in New Jersey has been consistently lower than in some nearby states.

One study from the 1990s found that the rate of crash-related deaths among 16- and 17-year-olds was 18 per 100,000 in New Jersey, compared

DRIVING • 4



Sports

USC's Bryan brothers make collegiate golf an all-star family affair. See page 8

The Mix

The New Kids on the Block make a less-than-triumphant return. See page 6

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TODAY Wednesday



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Today @ USC

TUESDAY

Sex and the College Student
7:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Russell House Theater

Student Ticket Advisory Committee meeting
4 p.m. to 6 p.m.
RH, SEC Room

Brothers of Nubian Descent
5 p.m. to 6 p.m.
Nursing, Room 231

Association of African American Students meeting
5 p.m. to 7 p.m.
RH Theater

Pastafarians meeting
6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.
Leconte, Room 112

RHA Senate meeting
6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m.
Currell, Room 107

Filipino-American Student Association
7 p.m. to 8 p.m.
RH Dining Room

Out-of-State Mentor meeting
7 p.m. to 8 p.m.
RH, Room 302

GAMMA meeting
7 p.m. to 9 p.m.
RH, Room 305

Jesus Camp: the Documentary (Sponsored by Pastafarians at USC)
7 p.m. to 9 p.m.
Nursing, Room 127

Bible Study
7:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
RH, Room 303

Club Tennis New Member meeting
7:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.
BA Building, Room 002

Hillel meeting
8 p.m. to 10 p.m.
RH, Room 304

Interview with
USC ADMINISTRATOR

of the
Week

Marsha Cole,
executive director of the Carolina
Alumni Association

Q: What situation or problem do you find yourself worrying about the most?

A: Gamecock football.

Q: What would your career be if you did not have your current job?

A: I would be a marine biologist.

Q: What one city in the world would you like to visit?

A: Melbourne, Australia.

Q: What is your personal maxim?

A: It can be done.

Q: What is your regular coffee or beverage order?

A: Non-fat mocha.

Q: What is your biggest pet peeve?

A: Naysayers.

-Compiled by Halley Nani

PIC OF THE DAY



Alan Tauber / THE DAILY GAMECOCK

Cocky takes a ride around campus on what has become many students' best friend during times of high gas prices and economic downturn: a bicycle.

Local

PICKENS — A convicted sex offender facing execution for raping and strangling a Clemson University student feels so guilty for his crimes that life in prison would be harder on him, his lawyer argued in a South Carolina court Monday.

Jerry Buck Inman, 37, of Tennessee, pleaded guilty last month to murdering 20-year-old engineering student Tiffany Marie Souers in May 2006 in her apartment about three miles from the college's campus. A judge will decide whether Inman is executed or sentenced to life in prison.

"He is filled with guilt and shame," Inman's attorney Jim Bannister said. "That eats him from the inside out on a daily basis. ... It leads him to the conclusion that he is an animal and that he deserves to die."

But Bannister argued during the first day of the sentencing hearing that his client should not be executed. He said Inman "came into this world impaired to start with," living in a home where his father molested him and his mother suffered from mental illness.

"What is it about a man's background that could put him in a position to be capable of such a horrendous and unthinkable crime?" Bannister asked Circuit Court Judge Edward Miller, who will decide Inman's fate.

Inman spent 18 years in prison for rapes he committed as a teenager in North Carolina and Florida and is a registered sex offender in both states. He had been free for about nine months before his arrest in Souers's death.

National

DOTHAN, Ala. - Larry Blumberg is looking for a few good Jews to move to his corner of the Bible Belt.

Blumberg is chairman of an organization offering Jewish families as much as \$50,000 to relocate to Dothan, an overwhelmingly Christian town of 58,000 that calls itself the Peanut Capital of the World. Get involved at Temple Emanu-El and stay at least five years, the group's leaders say, and the money doesn't have to be repaid.

More Jews are living in the South than ever — about 386,000 at last count in 2001, according to Stuart Rockoff, a historian at the Goldring/Woldenberg Institute of Southern Jewish Life in Jackson, Miss. But young Jews are leaving small places like Dothan in favor of cities like Atlanta and Birmingham, Rockoff said, and dozens of small-town synagogues have closed.

"A lot of the older people have died, and not many of the younger ones have stayed," said Thelma Nomberg, a member of the Dothan temple who grew up in nearby Ozark, where she was the only Jewish student in public school in the 1940s. "We are dying."

Being outside the Christian majority was never a problem, Nomberg said, even six decades ago: She won the Miss Ozark beauty pageant at 14 and sometimes attended church with friends after sleepovers.

Now a widow, Nomberg has watched two of her four adult children leave for Florida as Temple Emanu-El lost nearly half its membership, down to about 50 families. She can only hope the recruitment plan hatched by Blumberg Family Jewish Community Services of Dothan works for her synagogue.

Launched in June, the Blumberg program has put advertisements in Jewish newspapers in Boston, Miami, Providence, R.I. and Washington, and it plans to expand the campaign.

"I think it's important that we try to find young people that we could use in our religious school, our Sunday school and help in the way of trying to create more of a family-type atmosphere in our temple," Blumberg said.

Groups offered financial aid for Jews to return to New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina in 2005, and Jewish organizations around the country offer moving assistance for families.

World

LONDON - Three men were convicted Monday of conspiracy to murder in a terrorist bombing campaign, but the jury could not reach a verdict on allegations they plotted to use liquid explosives to down trans-Atlantic airliners.

The jury failed to reach any verdict at all for four defendants, and one man was acquitted in a case that caused travel chaos in 2006 at the height of the summer vacation season.

Prosecutors said a group of British Muslims led by Abdulla Ahmed Ali planned to use explosive hydrogen peroxide disguised as a soft drink and considered national infrastructure targets including gas terminals, oil refineries and Heathrow Airport.

Prosecutors said during the trial that the men, all Britons with ties to Pakistan, planned to attack United Airlines, American Airlines and Air Canada flights.

But the jury could not reach a verdict on prosecutors' claims that Ali intended to target passenger jets flying from London to major North American cities with suicide attacks.

A jury in London found that Ali and coconspirators Assad Sarwar and Tanvir Hussain were guilty of conspiracy to murder by the use of hydrogen peroxide to make a bomb.

The jury failed to reach verdicts on charges against four other defendants — Ibrahim Savant, Arafat Waheed Khan, Waheed Zaman and Umar Islam. An eighth man, Mohammed Gulzar, was acquitted.

The men's plans were stopped by British and U.S. intelligence officers in an investigation that led to a bomb factory in eastern London, British woodlands where chemicals had been dumped and to Japan, Mauritius, South Africa and Pakistan's lawless tribal areas where conversations were intercepted.

Police arrested two dozen suspects in dawn raids across Britain on Aug. 10, 2006.

Airports in the U.S. and Europe ground to a halt with hundreds of flights canceled over security concerns. Planes were stuck on runways for hours. Tempers flared as passengers lined up to surrender carry-on items under new security precautions that restricted the quantity of liquids in their luggage.

— The Associated Press

Crime Report

SATURDAY, SEPT. 6

Assistance rendered, simple possession of marijuana, 11:20 p.m.

1423 Whaley St., Bates House

An officer reported to the location and found the suspect highly intoxicated and unresponsive to questions. When searching for her identification, the officer found marijuana

and a pipe. She was sent to the Palmetto Richland Hospital.

Reporting officer: S. Wilcox

SUNDAY, SEPT. 7

Trespass after notice, 1:08 a.m.

112 Greene St., Law Center Fountain

Darryl Kelley was arrested after being found

sleeping under the trees in some mulch at the USC Law Center. The officer found he'd been given three trespass notices in the past three years.

Reporting officer: G. Banfield

-Compiled by News Editor Liz Segrist

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ELIZABETH CASSIDY WEST

SOUTH CAROLINA GAMECOCKS HISTORY DETAILED IN FOOTBALL VAULT™ BOOK

Few schools in the country have such a devoted fan base as the University of South Carolina, and no other book captures the history of their beloved Gamecocks like the University of South Carolina Football Vault™: The History of the Gamecocks. As much a scrapbook as it is a history book, opening the vault is like getting a guided tour through your own personal South Carolina football museum.

Author Elizabeth Cassidy West cut her teeth on Gamecocks football from an early age by attending games with her father, Joel Cassidy. West, the University of South Carolina archivist, mixes great game coverage with behind-the-scenes anecdotes and personal stories to present a view of South Carolina football that you won't find anywhere else.

The book combines fascinating tales of Gamecock legends — Billy Laval, Rex Enright, Paul Dietzel, Jim Carlen, Lou Holtz, Joe Morrison, Steve Wadiak, “Deacon” Dan Reeves, Bobby Bryant, Alex Hawkins, Jeff Grantz, George Rogers, Sterling Sharpe and more — with never-before-published historic photographs and replicas of unique memorabilia tucked inside the pages.

SC Football Vault Signing with author Elizabeth West

September 13, 11:00-2:00pm Addams University Bookstore

September 20, 1:00pm, Walmart on Harbison

September 28, 2:00-4:00pm Richland Mall Barnes & Noble

December 13, 2:00-4:00pm Richland Mall Barnes & Noble

DRIVING • Continued from 1

with 26 per 100,000 in Connecticut. Those rates, researchers said, have dropped even further since both states instituted graduated driver's license programs.

Graduated licensing, which has become standard across the country in the past 15 years, requires teens to spend more time driving with a responsible adult before going solo.

Many states tie these more stringent standards to declining teen crash rates.

Many industrialized countries in Europe and elsewhere have a driving age of 17 or 18.

Barbara Harsha, executive director of the Governors Highway Safety Association, said she welcomes a debate on raising the driving age, as do many who deal with public health.

"Getting the highest of the high-risk drivers away

from the wheel probably isn't a bad idea," said Dr. Barbara Gaines, trauma director at Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC.

But she and others — even the Insurance Institute officials who propose raising the driving age — agreed it is not the only option.

Gaines noted that teen drivers in the Pittsburgh area who have committed moving violations must attend a "reality education" program at her hospital.

They tour the intensive care unit and talk with young drivers who have been in serious crashes.

Still others say we are worrying too much about teen drivers and not enough about others who cause serious problems on the road.

"The intense focus on teens diverts our attention from the real threats to public safety: speeding and driving while intoxicated," she said.

VOTE • Continued from 1

his campaign and said he was not at the forum to convince students to vote for any particular candidate.

"Young people are affected by the rising gas prices and rising tuition costs," he said before the forum began. Gunn said if young people have liked

how these conditions have affected their lives, they should stick with the party that has controlled the presidency for the last eight years.

"If not, they should pick a new direction, which would be Obama," he said.

Comments on this story? E-mail gamecocknews@sc.edu

Wilmington, NC becomes first in digital TV

Remaining states will convert in February 2009 to new broadcast format

John Dunbar
The Associated Press

WILMINGTON, N.C. - With the flick of an eight-foot switch midday Monday, this Southern city became the first market in the U.S. to make the change to digital-only broadcasting. The switch wasn't really connected to anything, but it did serve as a centerpiece for a downtown ceremony at noon EDT marking the moment that commercial broadcasters voluntarily turned off their old-fashioned, inefficient analog signals. Wilmington volunteered to be a canary in a digital coal mine — a test market for the national conversion to digital broadcasting.

The rest of the nation's full-power television stations won't be converting until Feb. 17, 2009, a date set by Congress. "This switch is the biggest change in television since it went from black and white to color back in the 1950s," Federal Communications Commission Chairman Kevin Martin told the ceremony at historic Thalian Hall in downtown Wilmington. Wilmington, tucked between the Cape



Logan Wallace / The Associated Press

Wilmington Mayor Bill Saffo, left, talks with an FCC official about the new TV standard.

Fear River and the Atlantic Ocean, is the 135th largest television market in the U.S. with about 180,000 television households, according to The Nielsen Co. In February, Nielsen estimated there were more than 13 million households in the U.S. with television sets that can only receive analog broadcasts. Only about 8 percent of households in Wilmington are in that category, fewer than the national average.

Viewers who receive programming through an antenna and do not own newer-model digital TV sets by the time of the changeover must buy a converter box. The government is providing two \$40 coupons per household to help defray the cost.

Viewers who subscribe to a cable or satellite service won't be affected. The National Telecommunications and Information Administration oversees the government coupon program.

Acting agency chief Meredith Baker said Monday that more than 69,000 coupons have been requested from more than 37,500 households in the Wilmington market with about 47 percent coming from homes that rely on over-the-air broadcasts. More than 28,000 coupons have been redeemed to date, she said. Wilmington has been barraged with public service advertising about the change. "In a normal hour of television, you could see 12 commercials," said Larry Pakowski, who was working in a Wilmington Radio Shack store Sunday night. Sales of the store's \$59.99 converter boxes have been brisk, he said.

"I can't give you a specific number, but I can tell you traffic has been pretty steady," he said. Following the ceremony, questions immediately turned to what

will constitute a successful test. Viewers who are not equipped to receive digital signals will see a screen crawl, informing them of the fact. The crawl includes a toll-free number.

The volume of calls may be an early indicator. But maybe not, Martin said. "If nobody calls, it doesn't mean there wasn't a problem," he said. "And if a thousand people call it doesn't mean this wasn't a success.

Because success is ultimately going to be measured by what we've learned and can put in place to do next February." Commissioner Michael Copps, who came up with the idea to do a test run, praised Wilmington for volunteering, but said he wished other communities with different kinds of terrain and population patterns had "stepped up to the plate."

All four of the city's network affiliates as well as the Trinity Broadcasting Network have gone digital only. The local public television station is broadcasting both a digital and analog signal.

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Renters must pay attention to lease traps, hidden costs

Some housing complexes mislead students through paperwork, obligations

USC is overpopulated. We all know this. The crowding means that more of us are living off campus, and most seem to be gravitating toward those college housing communities.

In turn, the college housing communities are filling up faster and faster every year, making those of us who live in those places mere facial tissue in the eyes of our landlords.

I know property taxes rise every year, but rent around Columbia is going up at a rather extreme rate because these property owners know that we'll pay whatever they ask because, I mean, where else are we going to live? We can't just erect a shantytown on the Horseshoe and squat there for four years, although that might be fun for a week.

You'll pay whatever you have to if you want to live remotely near campus, so make sure that you're getting what you pay for. These places will screw you in any way they can because they can. A very well-known property situated close to campus was charging people for days in the month of August when they hadn't yet moved in, and the owners of the building were answering rather pissed-off parents and residents with a dismissive "That's what all the other college properties do."

That may be true, but that doesn't make it good business practice.

Always make sure you see the actual apartment you're going to be moving into. Most places have a very nicely finished model for you to look at when you initially tour the building, but the apartment you wind up moving into might look like it's home to a recently detonated meth lab. If you're steered away from seeing the actual unit that you're signing a lease for, go somewhere else. Immediately.

This might seem completely obvious, but for the love of God, read everything you're signing. Hell, read it twice. You should also be on the lookout for what's not in a lease. If your oven explodes, turning your kitchen into a makeshift Death Star reactor, and it's not stated in your lease that management has to maintain provided appliances, you're stuck with it.

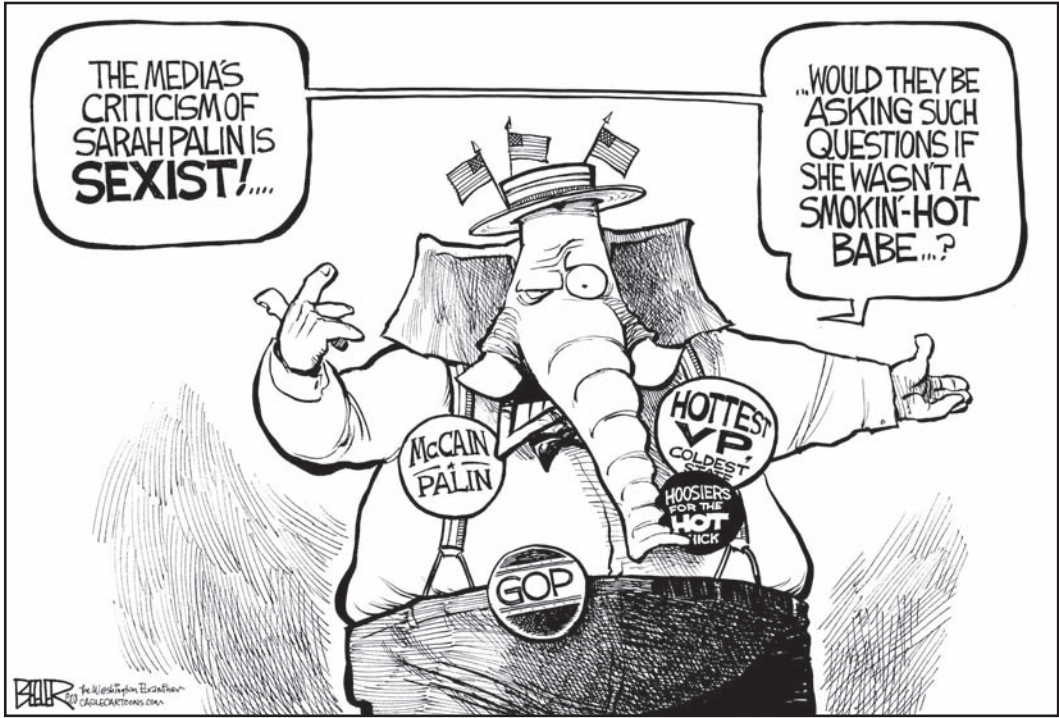
This might seem equally obvious, but just talk to people. Only residents will know how long it takes things to get repaired, what sorts of things need to get repaired and how safe a place is.

Good apartment buildings have good reputations, and the bad ones simply don't. Go with the safe options — it's too big of a gamble not to.

Apartment buildings only get away with screwing you over because you're letting them get away with it. Stand up for yourself, know your rights or something to that effect, and don't let the proverbial Man, wherever he is, keep you down.



ZACH TOMAN
Third-year undecided student



FOLLOW ME

Boeing strike counterproductive

Union members employ flawed logic, serve only to hurt own job futures

Boeing found itself in a pickle on Saturday when a union representing nearly 27,000 machinists went on strike after failed negotiations for a new three-year contract. At the heart of the strike is workers' anger over Boeing's outsourcing policies and concerns over job security.

While outsourcing has become standard for all types of manufacturing companies these days, Boeing's global supply chain is being plagued by slow suppliers, which have caused the 787 program to become more than a year behind schedule. This has caused anger and frustration with workers, and now the union wants more say on how much and what work is allowed to be outsourced. Boeing, however, is eager for more freedom in regard to when and how it is allowed to

seek out global suppliers.

This is going to hurt for all parties involved regardless of the outcome.

Boeing is obviously going to fall far behind in fulfilling its orders for products. This is going to cost them a lot of money. It's not too difficult to see how Boeing will feel the pain. Looking a little deeper, in the long run, it is the union workers who stand to lose, and not just those working at Boeing.

The main reason that companies outsource manufacturing work is that it is cheaper and more efficient. One of the many things companies look for in overseas suppliers is a favorable labor environment. This is part of what makes outsourcing a cheaper way to go. Union workers are more expensive than nonunion workers, and strikes can get rather expensive as well — as Boeing will soon find out. Because of this, striking workers only reinforce Boeing and other companies' belief that moving operations abroad is the best way to go.

Whether this is a good thing or a bad thing is irrelevant. It is reality. Because Boeing is one

of the largest defense contractors in the world, it is unlikely that they would do anything to upset Americans at large, as it may cause them to lose a government contract or two, but striking to prevent outsourcing is counterproductive and ridiculous.

So while Boeing may have to compromise this time, they will not soon forget lessons learned. As the world shifts to a more globalized economy, things like this will continue to happen. To think this is an issue of worker versus company is dead wrong. This is worker versus worker. To not realize this is fatal.

The Boeing union workers need to take a harder look at what they are trying to accomplish with this strike and realize that instead of just biding their time they should try to find a way to beat their real opponents. Boeing can fix its supply chain problems, and perhaps the solution lies with more domestic manufacturing, but the unions are going to have to step up and show that they are not more trouble than they're worth to make it happen.

Current drinking age useless

Change of restrictions would prevent bingeing, unnecessary police action

If you were wondering why America is the only country in the world that has a drinking age of 21, you can thank former President Ronald Reagan and his war against drugs. Also, Mothers Against Drunk Driving can take some credit. In 1984, Ronald

Reagan, along with Congress, threatened to withhold 10 percent of highway funds to those states that did not raise the drinking age to 21. But was this a great idea?

I don't believe so.

Restricting the drinking age to 21 and older hasn't prevented underage people from drinking. If anything, it has made alcohol consumption more dangerous. People under 21 are going to drink regardless of its legality. Even the federal government's National Survey on Drug Use and

Health discovered in 2005 that 85 percent of 20-year-old Americans reported that they had used alcohol. So instead of making people go behind closed doors where there is not going to be a more experienced responsible adult to make sure everything is running smoothly, states should lower the drinking age back to 18 so people who do choose to drink can do so in a safer environment.

A non-profit organization called Choose Responsibility, brought together by John M. McCardell, former president of Vermont's Middlebury College, holds that the drinking age should be lowered to 18. It is kind of ironic that an organization called Choose Responsibility would believe that, but this organization believes that people from the age 18 to 21 should take classes to earn a drinking license so that people are better informed of the cause and effects of alcohol consumption. This is a very responsible decision because, instead of being thrown into a drinking environment such as a college university unaware of the consequences of drinking, people will know what they are getting into.

Also, the police force would do a lot more protecting and a lot less enforcing. Instead of having under-cover officers trying to catch people they know are drinking, they could spend more time patrolling the streets to make sure our community is a safer place. And by no means am I promoting drinking and driving; the same laws should be applied to being over the limit no matter what age. With fewer under-cover officers, there could be more checkpoints to make sure people who are driving are still under the limit.

With a drinking age of 21, alcohol is more desirable to those who may not consume it. The simple reason is that people want what they can't have. This leads to binge drinking, or when a person consumes more than five alcoholic beverages in one night. Minors are not always in access to alcohol, so they want to try to enjoy it as much as they can because they are not sure when they will be able to do so again. Lowering the drinking age will also lower the percentage of people binge drinking. People will be able to have access to it freely, so it won't be such a big deal.

The Daily Gamecock

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IN OUR OPINION

TicketReturn concerns require proper forum

If you are one of the hundreds of students who woke up this morning only to find that you didn't get a ticket to this weekend's football game against Georgia, we have one piece of advice: Complain about it.

That's right, complain about it. Complain about it like there is no tomorrow. Just make sure that you are whining to the right people.

Every student knows that the new ticket distribution system has its downfalls and injustices, so crying to your friends who, more likely than not, got tickets, won't get anything accomplished.

The new system is far from perfect and they want to hear about it.

Going to people who want to hear student feedback so they can make the system better? Now that sounds like a better idea. After all, the powers behind the new ticketing system have

already taken huge steps to improve the way students get tickets. No longer do students have to stand in line all day just to get a ticket to a non-conference game. The new system also gets students into the stands, rather than sitting in the fairgrounds all night.

The new system is still far from perfect, and they want to hear about it. Tell them how students who weren't fortunate enough to get a ticket for the N.C. State game are now at a huge disadvantage for getting a Georgia ticket. Don't just sit there and tell people who can't help.

So if you are one of the unlucky ones who has to watch the game on CBS this weekend, make sure somebody knows about it.

The Student Ticket Advisory Committee can be reached at sastutix@mailbox.sc.edu

CORRECTIONS

If you see an error in today's paper, we want to know about it. E-mail us at sagckvew@mailbox.sc.edu

IT'S YOUR RIGHT

Voice your opinion on message boards at www.dailygamecock.com or send letters to the editor at sagckvew@mailbox.sc.edu

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“You must stay drunk on writing
so reality cannot destroy you.”
— Ray Bradbury

‘Fringe’ edges on mediocre

‘Alias,’ ‘Lost’ producer’s new mystery drama has underdeveloped storyline, lacks creativity, convincing characters

Jimmy Gilmore
THE DAILY GAMECOCK

Fringe
★★ out of ☆☆☆☆☆

While J.J. Abrams may have developed one of the staunchest fan bases on the Internet as producer of such phenomena as “Alias” and “Lost,” his luck may have run dry with “Fringe,” Fox’s new paranormal FBI investigative mystery drama.

The series pilot seems less than hopeful, with Abrams and his team relying on an overly plotted, underdeveloped science fiction storyline that piles on act-ending twist revelations designed to get successively weirder without attempting to make a shred

FRINGE

Fox
8 P.M.

Anna Torv, Mark Valley, John Noble, Joshue Jackson

of sense.

After the passengers of an international flight mysteriously die, FBI Agent Olivia Dunham is called to investigate. Played by Anna Torv with a tired plasticity that rarely generates excitement, Dunham seems an uninteresting and rather generic protagonist to carry such a seemingly complex series.

After her partner/lover is exposed to the same skin-eating toxin that wreaked havoc on the plane, Dunham enlists the help of reluctant genius Peter Bishop (Joshua Jackson) and his institutionalized father, Dr. Walter Bishop (John Noble), to save him and figure out who and what is behind this new brand of terrorist attacks.

The series deals with what it calls “fringe science,” which includes invisibility and regeneration of the flesh. “Fringe” sets its eyes on replacing Fox’s “The X-Files” as the new show to offer a fresh perspective on unexplained and bizarre phenomena in this post-9/11 society.

“Fringe” alludes several times to biochemical terrorism, the Patriot Act and several other dialogues from the current political discussion, but they remain mere allusions, never used in interesting fashion.

Jackson plays Peter with a sideshow disdain; his character seems to exist purely to deride and provide counter logic to his mentally unstable father through less-than-amusing quips and predictable one-liners that rarely generate laughs.

Noble would be the spotlight in this otherwise banal cast, but the writing paints him as a one-dimensional, all-powerful Dr. Frankenstein with all the answers and none of the explanation. Noble gives the role stability and contrast, but by being relegated to the “mad scientist” stereotype, his performance inevitably feels stilted.

This lack of creativity abounds in “Fringe.” Though the premise is strong and could afford plenty of interesting later developments, the pilot is stuck swimming in a tireless pool of clichés.

“Fringe” is perfectly content to throw anything and everything it can think of on the screen. One episode includes everything from LSD-induced conversations with people in comas to evil corporations to a frenetic car chase. Doing so much so often only wears the audience and loses tension instead of gaining momentum.

Abrams fanatics may flock to the show, anxiously desiring a plot-driven narrative that gleefully piles on the false roads and



Ben Mark Holzberg / MCT Campus

Joshua Jackson and Anna Torv play an unlikely duo in Fox’s “Fringe,” premiering tonight.

twist turns, but there is something stale in these proceedings.

As Kirk Acevedo’s character Charlie Francis muses, the world seems to have no use for FBI agents anymore.

Ironically, the dialogue speaks to the show itself. Despite its high concept and lofty ambitions, “Fringe” is stuck as a pathetic mirror of the better shows that came before it.

“Fringe” premieres tonight at 8 p.m. on Fox.

Comments on this story? E-mail gamecockfeatures@sc.edu

Site offers fashion tips

Online community aims to help users discover what clothes look good on them

Ashley Warren
THE DAILY GAMECOCK

The Internet readily offers fame and recognition to any student with an interest or talent. If you want feedback on your music, you can create a MySpace. If you want people to see a video you made, you can post it on YouTube. But how do you get noticed for your style? The answer to that is Chictopia.com, an online community created earlier this year dedicated to what looks good on you.

The founders of the company, three friends who love fashion, saw the way YouTube made video a democracy and



Courtesy of Chictopia

Users post shots of their favorite outfits.

MySpace made music a democracy, and they wanted to do the same for fashion.

The organizers of the site have done just that by gearing Chictopia specifically toward college students interested in defining their own style or discovering a new one.

Chictopia has a lot to offer to anyone who loves fashion. You can post photos of your favorite outfits for feedback, or you can search for users of a similar body type, skin tone or age for inspiration. The site’s users span all across the globe, representing styles from New Orleans to Oslo. You can search for looks by occasion, location or brand, so you are sure to find an outfit appropriate for any situation.

Chictopia’s marketing manager, Lulu Chang, summed up the Web site as “a Facebook for fashion, a portal for what everyone in the world is wearing and what looks good.”

The goal of the site, said Chang, is to “bring people who may not be necessarily interested in fashion into our world.”

The site caters to those between the ages of 16 and 25, since they are the most active in fashion, making it ideal for college students. The diversity of the site, with users of all shapes, colors and nationalities, gives users an extremely wide range of looks to choose from. The Web site has many tools to help you choose whose style you like and relate to, and gain inspiration from that.

The site also offers a blogging utility and online shopping. Teen Vogue has dubbed it “the next big thing” and often features users in its blogger of the month section. The site is also an outlet for boutiques and designers wanting their merchandise to be noticed.

Many of these retailers give reduced prices to users. For example, American Apparel has a 15 percent discount exclusive to Chictopia.com. Some users have actually started stores based off their popularity on the site. The site has been very empowering to its users.

“It has given teens a way to parlay themselves into notoriety,” said Chang.

The point of Chictopia isn’t to relay the latest fads or trends, but to help users figure out what looks good on them. The site’s tagline, “What looks chic on you?” conveys Chictopia’s main objective: to create a constructive community focused on, as Chang put it, “how you can really learn to dress better.”

Comments on this story? E-mail gamecockfeatures@sc.edu

‘New Kids’ are old news

Members of ‘80s band have midlife crisis, fail to reinvent old sound

Marin Mueller
THE DAILY GAMECOCK

The Block
★★ out of ☆☆☆☆☆

Apparently, the hot new trend in music isn’t new at all.

Sure, Americans are notorious for loving a comeback (after all, it’s been working well for Britney Spears), but how many more reunion tours can we sit through? First Cher had her first (of many) “final” tours, then Madonna reinvented herself for the 872nd time, and after that, the Spice Girls embarked on yet another tour, this time sans the platform shoes and Union Jack-inspired body suits.

Still, all good things must come to an end, a point that is more than adequately proven by New Kids on the Block with their latest attempt at a hit. Unfortunately, even with the help of artists such as the Pussycat Dolls, Akon and Ne-Yo, the New Kids convinced audiences that their music is better left in the past.

The biggest problem with the boys’ new album, “The Block,” is its failure to reinvent their sound. Admittedly, the music doesn’t sound like it came from the same group that sang “Cover Girl” and “I’ll Be Loving You,” but that certainly doesn’t give them a fresh new style.

Instead, the album sounds like a set of previously unreleased tracks from Boys II Men. Back when the men of NKOTB were actually kids, I loved them just as



Richard Drew / The Associated Press

The band attempts a youthful stance on NBC’s “Today.”

much as anyone else, and the New Kids’ ignorance of the band they once were is lamentable. Band member Joey McIntyre explained in a news release that the men are “not just cashing in on pure nostalgia for the old days.”

I for one, however, wish they had stuck to the nostalgia that fans love. Instead of hearing the boys beg fans to “Sexify My Love” (What does that even mean?), most fans would surely much rather have them singing about “The Right Stuff” than hear an entire album of the wrong stuff.

Possibly the most disturbing thing about the New Kids on the Block is their refusal to act their age.

The album’s press release included a picture of what looked like five 30-something stockbrokers. Only upon further examination does it become apparent that these five men are the same ones who were once teenage pop stars. There’s something slightly eerie about a group of 36-year-old men telling anyone that they want to “Stare at You.”

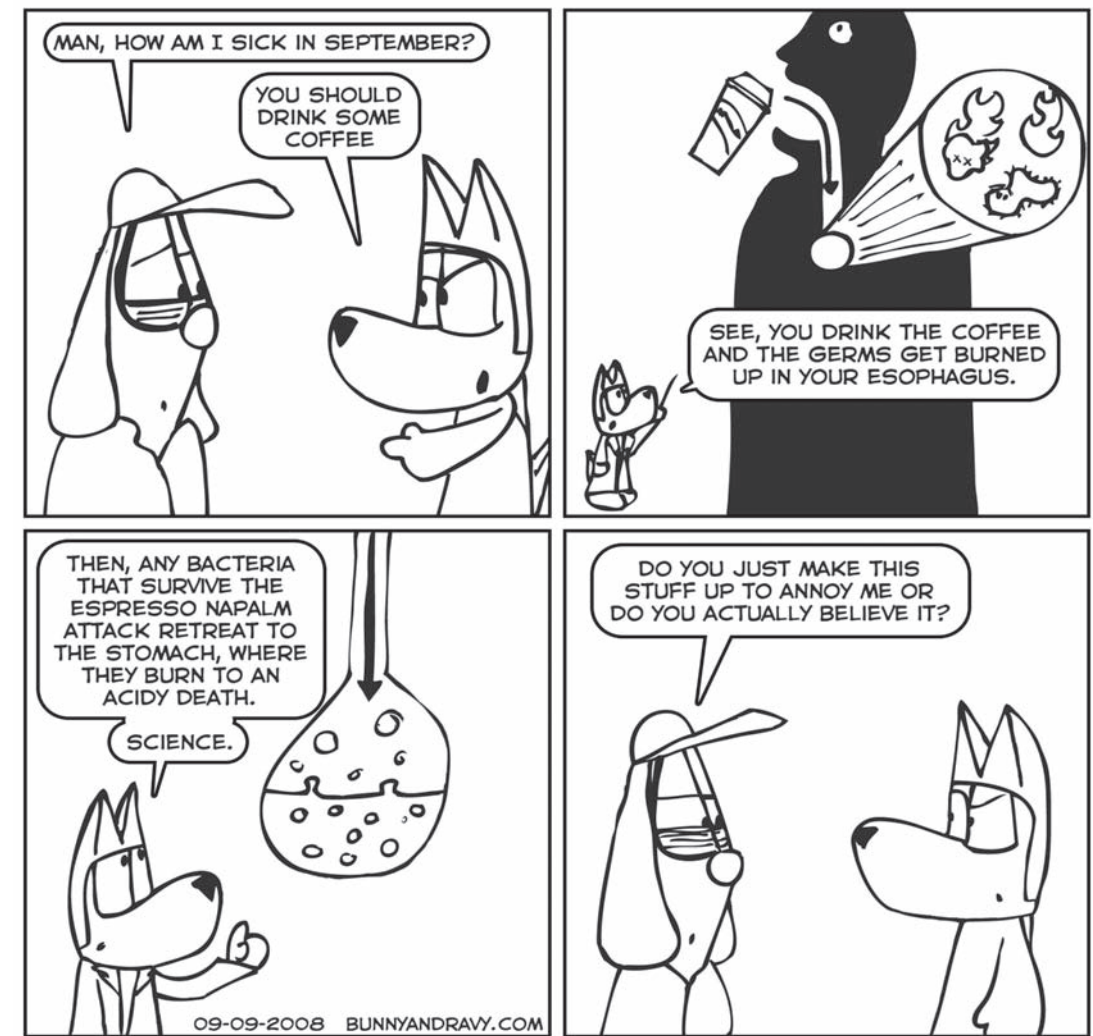
If, however, you can get over the fact that Donnie Wahlberg and company are suffering from a very obvious midlife crisis, the album is worth a listen. Ne-Yo and the Pussycat Dolls both give solid performances on the album and make the songs on which they’re featured listenable. The novelty of hearing the New Kids on the Block 20 years after they were first popular makes the album worth downloading on Ruckus, but it would be difficult to justify putting down cash for it.

Despite my own personal doubts about the band’s ability to make a comeback, Joey McIntyre assured his fans, “We’re still young, we’re still hot.” Whether or not this is true is purely a question of judgment.

One thing, however, is objectively obvious — the New Kids on the Block are no longer kids, and they certainly haven’t brought anything new to the table.

Comments on this story? E-mail gamecockfeatures@sc.edu

Inside the Box ♦ By Marlowe Leverette / The Daily Gamecock



The Whiteboard ♦ By Bobby Sutton / The Daily Gamecock



Spurned ♦ By Jarad Greene / The Daily Gamecock



THE SCENE @USC



CARTER'S CHORD
6 p.m., free
Russell House Patio

TODAY

ACOUSTIC CAFÉ
9:30 p.m., free
Russell House Starbucks

ALL GET OUT, DIGNAN, HOMER HICCOLM AND THE ROCKETBOYS, BEN WALKER
7 p.m., \$10
New Brookland Tavern, 122 State St.

VERSEWORKS OPEN MIC NITE FEATURING REGGIE E FROM DEL RAY
8 p.m., free
Art Bar, 1211 Park St.

PRAYING WITH LIOR

6 p.m., \$5.50
Nickelodeon Theatre, 937 Main St.

MONGOL
9 p.m., \$5.50
Nickelodeon Theatre, 937 Main St.

TOMORROW

1997, NATIONAL PRODUCT, THIS MACHINE IS ME, DARLING WASTE
6:30 p.m., \$10
New Brookland Tavern, 122 State St.

TAXI TO THE DARK SIDE
8 p.m., free
Russell House Theater

HOROSCOPES



ARIES It takes discipline, enthusiasm and guts to advance. You have all that stuff. Now, figure out what you want to accomplish. It's a good time to push forward.

TAURUS A dilemma is resolved through a great idea from a good and trustworthy friend. Talk it over with somebody who's already been there and done that.

GEMINI Your partner is getting a lot better about making decisions. You might have noticed by now. If not, you will soon. This is a very good thing.

CANCER Accept an invitation to do something you've never tried before. It could be lunch at a

new restaurant or a trip to Acapulco. Or both.

LEO You need the money, so do the job and don't even complain. If you can get into it, maybe you'll have fun. It's certainly worth a try.

VIRGO Don't try to do it all by yourself. Share the load and make the job more fun.

LIBRA You have what you need. Now if only you can find it. Ask a close family member to help. He or she may have moved it.

SCORPIO You're learning quickly and that's a good thing. This game is very fast-paced. You can win with a combination of skill and good luck. Pay close attention.

SAGITTARIUS

You'll have a chance to make more money now, which is always nice. Apply for the promotion, or whatever it is that's required. Start your own business. Buy low, sell high.

CAPRICORN A plan you've been formulating is starting to take shape. It's like you're being released from a holding pattern. You'll accomplish amazing things in the next few weeks.

AQUARIUS Luckily, you're in a pretty good mood. If you weren't, all this mucking around in messes could really get you down. Don't give up.

PISCES Your friends are numerous and supportive of your creative endeavors. Actually, they're your fan base. You gotta love 'em for it.

Crossword

Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

9/09/08

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Research is about asking questions and finding answers - Start answering YOUR questions & get \$\$

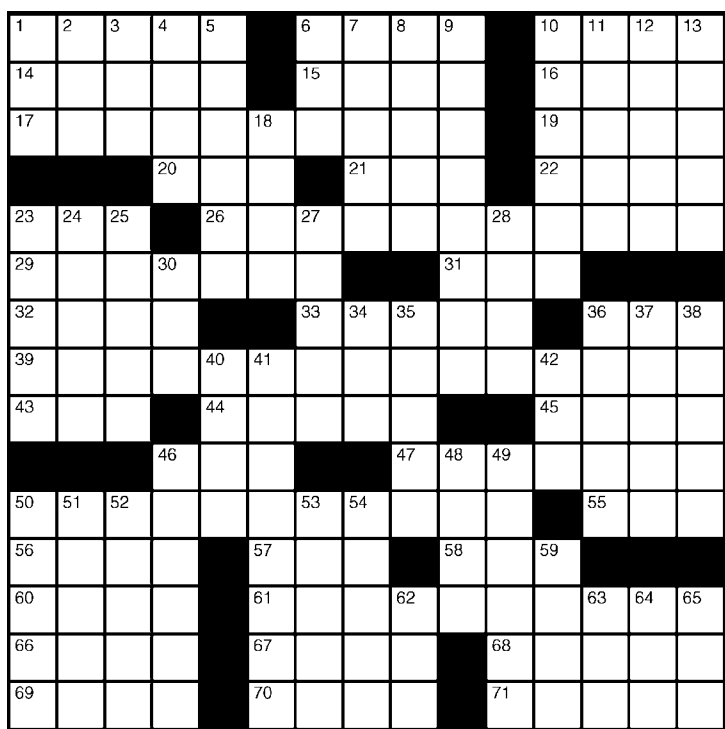


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ACROSS

- Grasshopper sound
- Bid first
- Arabian sultanate
- Invisible emanations
- Opera star
- Skater Lipinski
- At all
- Get-up
- Neptune's realm
- "The Lord of the Rings" baddie
- Prima donna's #
- Notes of scales
- "Twelfth Night"
- Male graduate
- Refrain syllable
- Ripped apart
- Delhi attire
- Dell products
- Thingamabob
- That feels good!
- "Easy _"
- Irish Republic
- Insane
- Part of EST
- Alfred E. Neuman line
- Ipanema locale
- Fabled dawdler
- Rhine tributary
- Period
- Act as a lookout, say
- Streisand film
- Mark ___Baker
- Top-rated
- Yamaha product
- Sundance's girl-friend
- Hindu discipline
- Wise ones



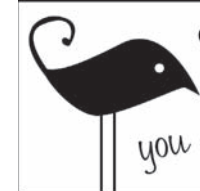
Solutions from 9/08/08



- trade
- 51 Daily routine
- 37 Wispy clouds
- 52 __ we a pair?
- 38 Minutes taker,
- 53 Large mackerel
- perhaps
- 54 Borneo ape, briefly
- 40 Study hard
- 59 Samoan port
- 41 Retreat
- 62 Crummet comple-
- 42 Do-over service
- 63 Diplomat Hammar-
- 48 Sicilian spouter
- 64 Hour past noon
- 49 Sweet, sticky liq-
- 65 Kind of lettuce
- uids
- 50 Marine mammal
- 36 One who works at a

DOWN

- Crow's cry



cheep! cheep!
you don't have to spend a lot to look cheep!
hanky panky, nubra, mary green, le mystere

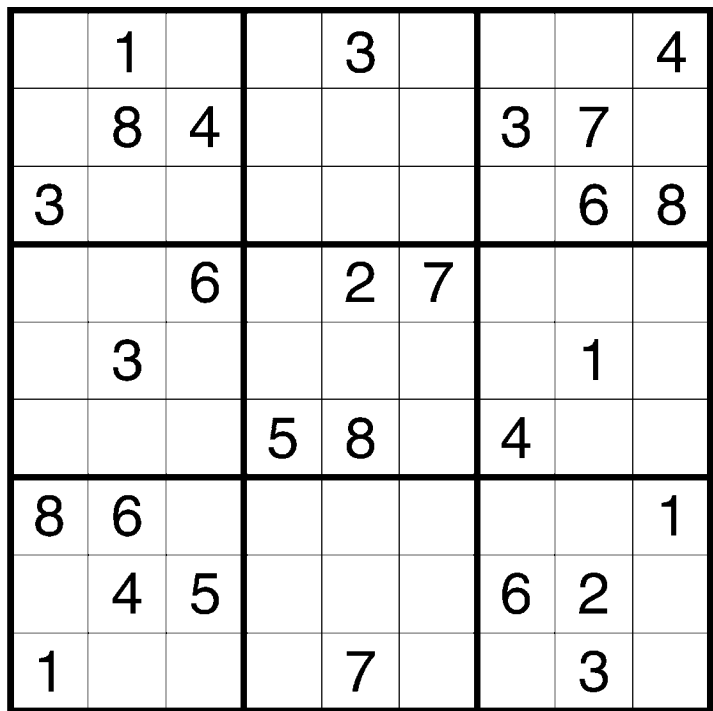
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Sudoku

By The Mephram Group

9/09/08

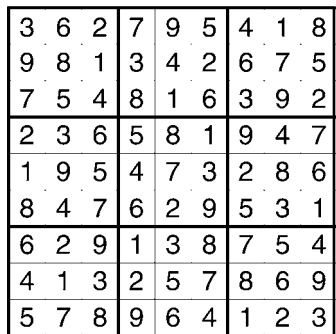


Level 1 2 3 4

How to Play

Complete the grid so each row, column AND 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit 1 to 9.

Solution for 9/08/08



CHIP OFF THE OLD BLOCK

*For George and Wesley Bryan, golf isn't just a game—
it's a part of family tradition*

Sam Davis
THE DAILY GAMECOCK

For George and Wesley Bryan, golf is more than “second nature”. It’s a family affair.

The junior and freshman from Chapin grew up under the tutelage of one of Golf Digest’s “Best teachers in South Carolina” (2000, 2001) — their father, George Bryan III. The brothers will start for the 2008 USC golf team, which is currently No. 11 in the country, according to Golf World and the Nike Coaches Poll. But, as George Bryan IV says, “We’re a top five team.”

Both siblings have already pieced together a remarkable list of accomplishments. George Bryan IV, after only his second year of college golf, has seven career top 10 tournament finishes. He made the 2008 All-SEC First Team and was given Honorable Mention All-America honors from PING golf. His younger

opportunities to practice,” says George Bryan IV. “You play with better players, you’re going to get better.”

Their style and tendencies on the golf course, the boys say, mirror each other. This, as Wesley points out, is likely because “we’ve had the same exact coach for our entire life.” But Dad makes a different observation.

“On the golf course, they are 180 degrees different,” George Bryan III said. He goes on to contrast George Bryan IV’s steadiness and consistency with Wesley Bryan’s tendency to play “all over the golf course.”

And why is George Bryan III such a reliable source of information regarding his sons’ golf games? Other than the fact that he has taught them virtually everything they know about the game, he has also experimented with caddying for both boys, admittedly with varying degrees of success.

“I’m under qualified to be the caddy.

I think I’ve retired from caddying. I’m not sure I’ll ever earn the job back. I think I can be a great caddy, but not for these boys,” George Bryan III wrote on his blog. Regardless of who is manning the bag for either son, it’s evident that George Bryan III will do whatever he can to stay hands on with his kids.

During their long journey as maturing golfers, the experience of the older sibling, George Bryan IV, has helped Wesley Bryan grow considerably.

“Mentally, he was always a step ahead of me,” Wesley Bryan explains. “So he really elevated my game. I just wanted to be at his level.”

Their father agrees.

“Growing up, George was always a step ahead of Wesley,” George Bryan III said. “So, with the common younger brother mentality, Wesley was always trying to catch up. That benefited him.”

After all of the success that this family has seen on the links, George Bryan III takes his greatest pride in his sons’ camaraderie.

“They really complement one another so well. It’s amazing how well they get along, and that’s always stood out to me,” George Bryan III said.

His dedication to George and Wesley’s golf games definitely don’t go unnoticed, either.

“No matter how good or bad we play, he is always inspiring and reassuring,” Wesley Bryan said.

It’s not always about brotherly love, though. The Bryan brothers admit that their recreational rounds together can get a little dicey. “It goes both ways, but I tend to dish out the trash talk a little more,” Wesley Bryan said. “It’s great to go out there with him and, really, just try to beat him.”

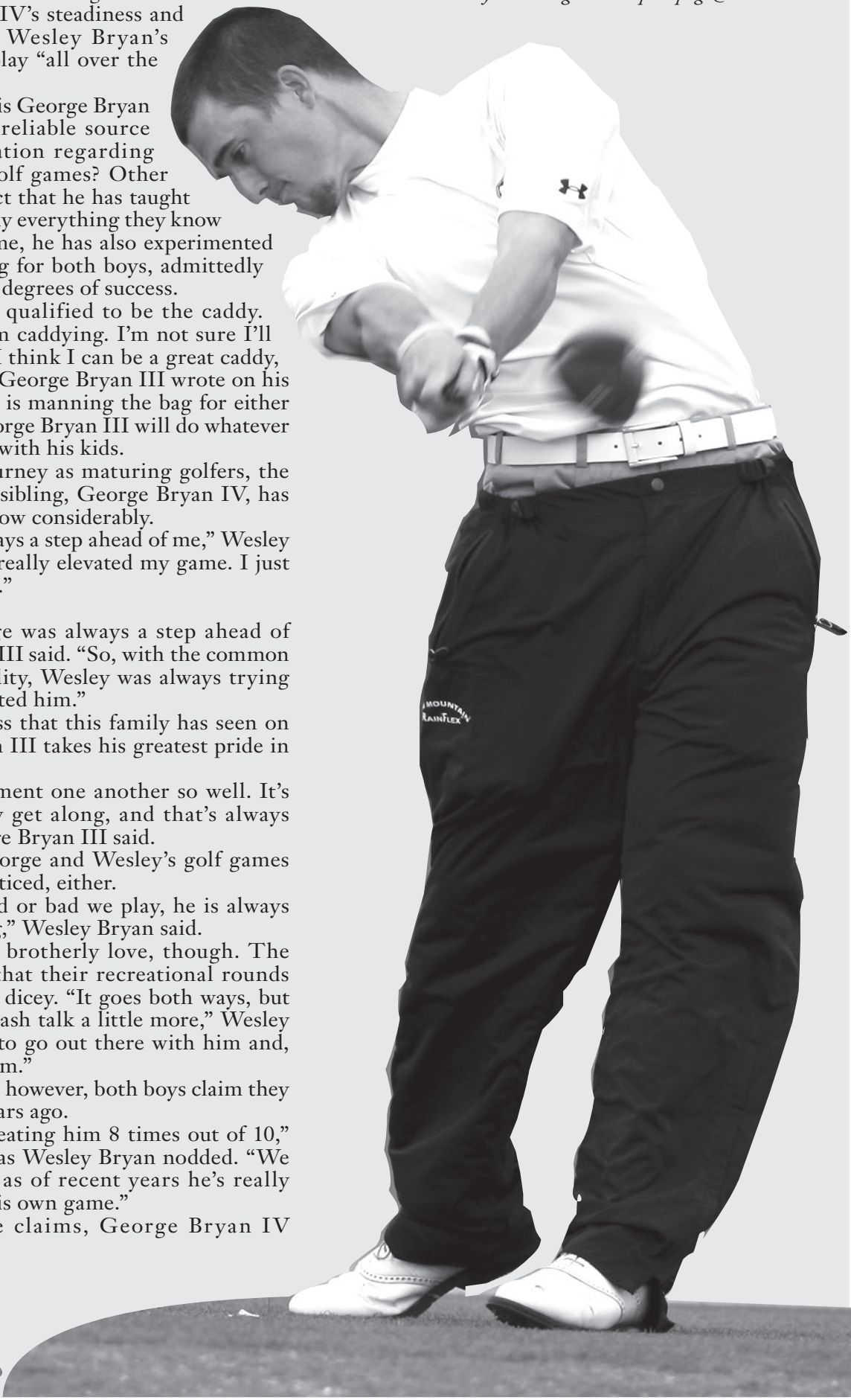
When Dad tags along, however, both boys claim they left him in their dust years ago.

“At age 15 we were beating him 8 times out of 10,” George Bryan IV said, as Wesley Bryan nodded. “We should admit, though, as of recent years he’s really focused on us and not his own game.”

After hearing these claims, George Bryan IV chuckled.

brother Wesley has a good control of the lead at one time during the U.S. Amateur Tournament. He later went home with an impressive top 15 finish. He is also a two-time winner of the South Carolina 4A High School Championship.

The boys’ father, George Bryan III, has a pretty impressive resume, as well, that includes qualifying for several PGA tour events as well as being the director of instruction for The George Bryan Golf Academy. “Wherever he was, we were when we were younger. We would follow him around everywhere and that gave us so many great



McKinley doubtful; receivers to step up

Cook, Saunders among likely picks for USC quarterbacks against UGA

Sam Davis
THE DAILY GAMECOCK

The Gamecocks will most likely enter Saturday’s game without their star player. The likelihood of senior wide receiver Kenny McKinley playing is considered “very doubtful” according to USC Coach Steve Spurrier. McKinley’s leg injury, which occurred in Thursday’s upset loss against Vanderbilt, is keeping him from walking without a slight limp.

“I can’t do too much of

anything right now, but hopefully this weekend it will loosen up,” McKinley said. “I wish I could be out there with me time. I really just don’t even want to think about it. It’s in the past.”

The star receiver, who is on pace to break numerous records this year, does remain confident in his team.

“We can definitely still beat them,” he said. “It’s going to be crazy but I know these guys can do it. The young guys just have to step up.”

Coach Spurrier agrees with his injured receiver.

“The young guys got a lot of work tonight,” Spurrier said. “C.C. [Whitlock], Joe Hills, they all looked good tonight. Weslye Saunders too – we’ll have to get the ball to him a

lot.”

Jared Cook will also be seen often in the upcoming game. In last week’s loss, Cook led the team in both receptions, with 8, and receiving yards, with 111.

“We went to Cook a lot last game, and we’ll probably do that again this week,” Spurrier said.

The defense, which struggled to make big stops against Vanderbilt, will certainly need to step up if McKinley can’t go.

“It was real frustrating last week. We all missed tackles,” senior linebacker Jasper Brinkley said. “We can’t have any missed tackles against a team like Georgia.”

Brinkley, born and raised in Georgia, knows a win would go a long way on Saturday.

“It’s always a significant game to me because it’s a hometown team and when I go home I have to hear everybody talking about it – win or lose,” Brinkley said.

One thing is certain: last week’s setback needs to be

forgotten.

“It was a bad game, but the past is the past. A win ... would do great things for us,” Kenny McKinley said.

The players aren’t the only ones ready to put Vanderbilt behind them.

“That game’s over,” Spurrier said. “We have to prepare for the next game, and when this game is over we will prepare for the next one.”

Without a doubt, the Gamecocks will start off Saturday with a bullet in the foot. The injury to McKinley will bog down an already struggling passing game, and the weight of last week’s shocker won’t help either. Brinkley, however, says the loss is out of the players’ minds.

“We are 100 percent focused on Saturday,” Brinkley said.

Comments on this story? E-mail gamecocksportspage@sc.edu

Receivers to watch

With receiver Kenny McKinley likely to miss Saturday’s matchup with Georgia, keep an eye on these players:

• **Junior Tight End Jared Cook**
Season stats: 10 catches, 130 receiving yards, 1 TD

• **Sophomore Wide Receiver Dion Lecorn**
Season stats: 6 catches, 71 receiving yards, 1 TD

• **Junior Wide Receiver Moe Brown**
Season stats: 5 catches, 74 receiving yards, 14.8 YPC

Lacrosse Club



Courtesy of USC Lacrosse Club

Lacrosse team sets sights on Clemson tournament

Club hopes new strength coach, fresh crop of players will exorcise demons of 6-6 season, bring home title

Morgan Henley
THE DAILY GAMECOCK

For a school where almost a quarter of the students come from out of state, it's not surprising that lacrosse, a sport that is just hitting the southern half of the country, is a popular club sport on campus.

The fact that USC has so many out of state students from the Northeast is a huge advantage to the Lacrosse team.

"At the new member meeting we had 30 new players," lacrosse captain Jake Luce said. "Ninety-five percent were not from the state of South Carolina."

The team plays in the Southeastern Lacrosse Conference and face other schools with large football teams who do not have Division I lacrosse teams. Opponents include Virginia Tech, East Carolina University, Wake Forest, North Carolina State and Clemson. These schools are unable to have Division I lacrosse teams because of the Title IX program, which requires an equitable amount of funding for men's and women's teams.

After a strong first scrimmage on Friday, the team is hopeful for a good season. The team has 30 returning players and lost only one senior last year. The team gained some good attackmen and midfielders, although the team is fortunate to already have a well-balanced offense.

Also new to the team is Coach Mike Bagetta, who is focusing on improving the overall endurance of the players. Bagetta originally only approached one player

about personal conditioning, but then agreed to work with the entire team. The team will now have strength and conditioning three days a week in addition to their practices two days a week.

"We just weren't in good enough shape last season," Luce said. "By the third and fourth quarters the team would have just run out of gas."

In the past the team has suffered from subpar coaching, which contributed to their 6-6 season last year. The team is optimistic that the improvements in strength and conditioning will make them more of a threat in the SELC. They also hope for revenge after an embarrassing loss to Clemson at home last year.

"Basically, if we beat Clemson we go to the playoffs," said Luce. "Clemson and USC are at a very similar level."

Although lacrosse is a spring sport, the team will compete for the first time Oct. 25 in the Southern Comfort tournament, hosted by Clemson. This will be the team's first chance to show the rest of the country what kind of competition they will be bringing this season.

Another way the team is trying to keep up with other southeastern lacrosse clubs is through substantial financial backing that is provided by the players. USC gives the team less than \$4000 a year, which only covers a minimal amount of the cost. The new players pay \$1200 in dues and the returning players pay \$1000.

"The lacrosse team is different from most clubs on campus," said Luce. "We are able to pay for buses and hotels to away games. But our dues are much higher than clubs like rugby."

Interested players can contact the team president Adam Shuman at gamecockslacrosse@gmail.com.

Comments on this story? E-mail gamecockssportspage@sc.edu

Loss to Vanderbilt leaves fans aghast

One writer looks at what USC has left this football season

I watched the last nine-and-a-half minutes of the Vanderbilt game in almost total silence. There I was, surrounded by diehard Carolina fans sitting in total silence, unable to believe what ESPN was broadcasting and Chris Fowler was saying.

You know the story — South Carolina was down 24-10

against Vandy, the offense could not move the ball and there were two special teams mistakes that led to Commodore touchdowns.

With their backs against the wall, the vaunted Gamecock defense, which I enjoyed so much through the first game-and-a-half, could not stop the other team from scoring. After Carolina scored to make it 24-17, there was a glimmer of hope. If only USC could stop them on the next possession, overtime — and a possible win — would be in the cards.

The Gamecocks were playing Vanderbilt, after all. The defense held strong, and it was three plays and out for the Commodores. Everything was going how it should; there were almost five minutes to go and the offense needed only 48 yards to score. Sophomore quarterback Chris Smelley and company had just driven 55 yards in a mere 108 seconds. And we all know what happened next. The offense stalled, forcing a punt, the defense couldn't get another stop and USC lost ... to Vanderbilt ... again.

My friend James left and went to bed; I'm guessing he didn't sleep well. I walked outside and sat down in a rocking chair. I was joined by two friends, Ward and Dave.

"I thought this was the year," I told them. "I really thought we could have won nine games, maybe even 10 if we got lucky. Our defense looked so promising, and as

long as the offense was not useless we could compete consistently."

"I've been a Carolina fan my whole life," Dave said. "And I thought the same thing too. But at least it happened early this year, so now we can go the rest of the season without high expectations and it won't be so bad."

"Yeah, I'd rather lose now so we don't have to feel like we did last year," Ward said. "I would never want to go through that again."

We all agreed and sat in silence again. Then, with a hint of seriousness, Dave and Ward suggested I transfer to a school where I would not have to go through this devastation year after year. I am just a sophomore, and they are both seniors and lifelong Carolina fans. I can imagine that more than a few of us out there all thought about how much we hated going through this.

We ran through possible destinations for me to go; UNC was among them. They have basketball at least. So was Auburn, because my brother goes there. Florida is Florida — we all know they're good. If I went to Ohio State I'd only have to watch them lose once a year to an SEC school. And I suggested Youngstown State because their mascot is a penguin.

Of course I have no intentions of transferring. I love it here, and you should too. Maybe we have to deal with heartbreak when the football team inevitably loses, and I'm starting to be convinced that it is really difficult to recruit here. But I still love our school, Williams-Brice stadium, and hearing 82,000 people saying "Game ... Cocks" and "Go, Fight, Win, Kick Ass" still sends chills down my spine.

So if you're thinking that maybe things couldn't get any worse and you're looking to adopt a new college football team, I'd say stick with us. After all, I know of a certain team in Athens that started last year 1-1 with a solid defense, a questionable offense and a loss to a team that everyone thought they should have beaten. But the last time I checked, they finished the season 10-1. And for now, that should be comforting enough.



Courtesy of USC Lacrosse Club

USC's lacrosse club features mostly out-of-state players trying to spread the sport beyond its Northeastern roots.

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